THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL) has concluded the configuration study for the Capacity Expansion-cum-Modernisation Project, to be implemented, after approvals, in two phases.

Phase-I consists of implementation of facilities required for upgrading the motor spirit and high speed diesel to BS-II norms at the existing crude oil refining capacity of 7.5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA). Phase-I is expected to be completed by January, 2005.

Phase-II consists of implementation of facilities required to upgrade motor spirit and high diesel to Euro-II norms, expansion of crude oil refining capacity by 2.5 MMTPA, and modernisation of the refinery for reducing the operating costs, Phase-II is scheduled for completion by 2010.

Contract for HBJ upgradation project

2101. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Wil the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GAIL awarded contract recently for HBJ upgradation project (42" LSAW LINE PIPE);

(b) if so, the number of tenders received from India and from foreign countries;

(c) the reasons for rejecting reputed foreign tenders outright inspite of their low quotations; and

(d) the action proposed to enquire and fix responsibility for such irregularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. GAIL has received 3 tenders from Indian bidders and 9 tenders from

foreign bidders. Out of 9 foreign bidders, 7 did not meet technical/ commercial qualification criteria. Remaining 2 foreign bidders qualified techno-commercially along with 3 Indian bidders. However, evaluated rates of both the foreign bidders were not competitive as compared to rates offered by the Indian parties.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of petroleum products

†2102. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petrol, diesel, natural gas, naphtha and other petroleum projects are imported;

(b) if so, the quantum of each of the above item imported during 2000-2001, 2001-02 and the first nine months of 2002-2003; and

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange utilised for this import together with the reasons for the import of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) There have been no import of natural gas. Further, petrol has not been imported during the period 2000-01 to 2002-03. Details of imports of diesel and natptha, alongwith foreign exchange incurred on such imports are given below:

	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03 (Apr-Dec)	
	Qty In TMT	Value Million US$	Qty in TMT	Value Million US$	Qty in TMT	Value Million US$
Diesel (HSD)	-	-	31	6	21	4
Naphtha	3165	897	3308	724	1934	491

*TMT: thousand metrict tonnes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.